

Lafayette March 25. 1827

Scrofula

W. E. Hb.

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The disease described by Medical writers under the title of Scrofula, is of very ancient origin.

Its existence as a distinct and well marked species of morbid action, is recognized in the most ancient records of Medicine, and described with sufficient accuracy. The term appears to have been derived from the Latin word *Scrofa*, and was adopted by the ancient writers, from the close resemblance of this disease to an affection of the lymphatic glands to which swine are especially liable. The inaccuracy, and even absurdity of this denomination, must be apparent to every one and furnishes a convincing proof of the clouded and unsettled notions which have always prevailed in regard to the nature of this disease. Many of the obstacles which have retarded the progress of pathological enquiry, are justly attributable to a want of precision in the language of Medicine, and a character of vagueness and mystery attached to the names of many diseases.

The nomenclature of our Science is disfigured by many terms the most uncouth, and absurd calculated to

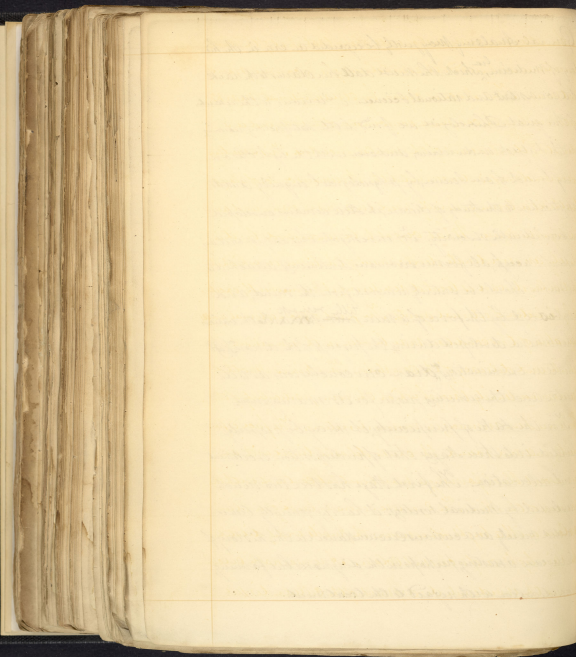
mislead the student, and retard the march of rational and philosophical enquiry. I should by the name diseases have been regarded as specific and peculiar in their nature, having a totally separate existence, and requiring for their treatment a practice founded on the actions peculiar to each. Thus the course of Medical investigation is diverted from its natural, and proper channel, and driven into wild and visionary speculations.

Shrouded in this mysterious veil, Scrofula till within a few years has remained altogether impenetrable to the light which modern discovery has shed on many other departments of Medical science. It appears to have maintained the Character of a kind of holi hui languore which it was dangerous to disturb. And Medical writers have merely beat about the borders of it, filling up their want of knowledge by ingenious but useless speculations. It was not until the appearance of that splendid exertion of human intellect and industry the works of the immortal Becham that Medical research was directed into its proper channel.

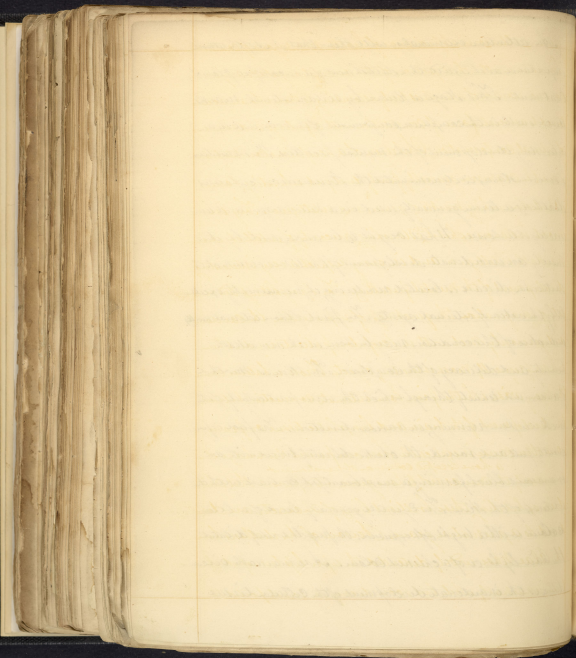
Although much was done and many hints were thrown out which opened the eye of this acute observer, yet the appearance of Becham's work on the Menstrua and his

General Quackery may justly be regarded as an era in the history of Medicine,^{has} which she must still lay claim to the rank of a consistent and rational science. Previous to the researches of this great Philologist we find little satisfactory reasoning on the subject under review, and even with the light thrown on every branch of our Science by physiological enquiry and its application to the study of disease it still remains enveloped in considerable obscurity. To investigate this subject without hope of success; all former erroneous sentiments attached to the name should be entirely removed from the mind, and unbiased by the force of a mere ^{till very late} ~~name~~ ^{fact}. Both various phenomena developed during the progress of the disease & post mortem examinations ~~draw~~ ^{drawn} our conclusions as to its nature and the remedies proper for its management.

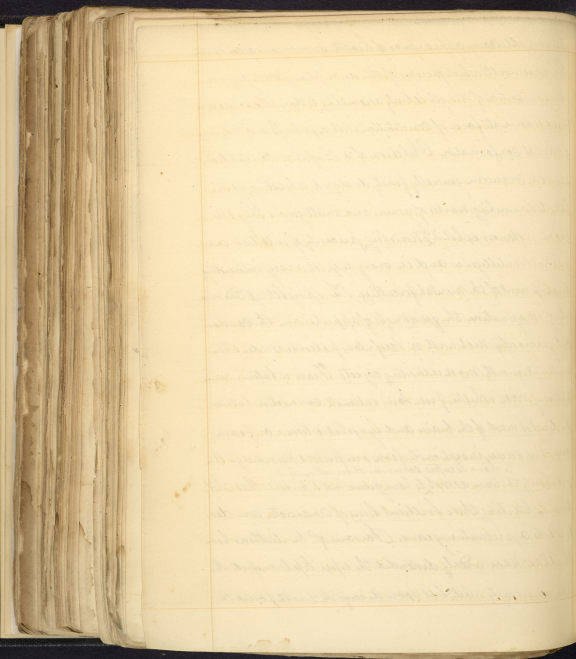
For the sake of perspicuity, it may be properly divided into three stages that of predisposition, excitement and ulceration. The first stage has been too much neglected by Medical writers: it having generally been regarded merely as a curious circumstance in the history of the disease assisting perhaps in the diagnosis but forming no indication with regard to the treatment.



An attentive examination will show that it is of the utmost importance as to the establishment of a successful plan of treatment. This stage is known by certain external marks discoverable in the complexion, conformation of the body, and in an interesting development of the mental faculties. This assemblage of circumstances is denominated the Strumous or Scrophulous diathesis, a term generally used in a most vague and unintelligible sense. What ought to be understood by this, namely an inordinate development of the tissue in which the particular disease is located rendering it preeminently excitable by the action of external agents. The first of these external marks indicative of this condition may be seen in the remarkable beauty and delicacy of the complexion. The skin is smooth of uncommon fineness through which the veins particularly of the neck are seen running in various directions. The face is frequently full and round, the cheeks delicately tinged with an roseaceous blush forming a most beautiful contrast with the whiteness of the skin. The eyes are generally large of a blue colour with a bright soft expression: the pupils widely dilated the hair light or of a chestnut colour. A remarkable circumstance is the inordinate development of the cellular tissue

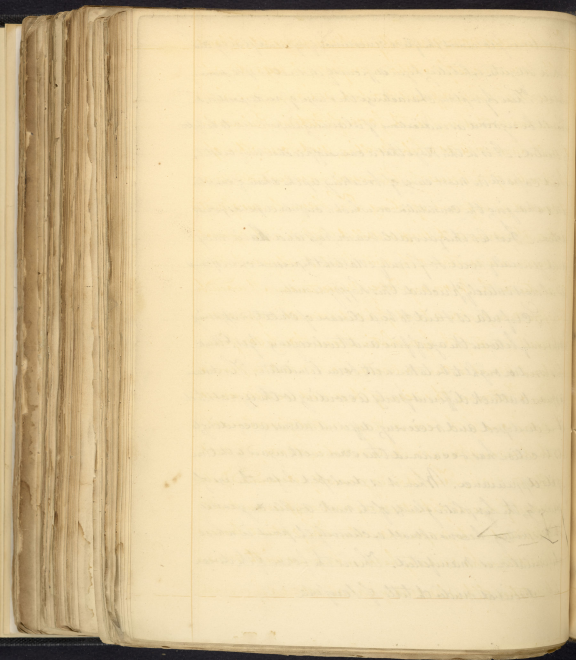


giving illusory appearances of health and vigour of constitution.
The ease with which persons of this description yield to any com-
mon exertion of strength is truly astonishing to those who are accus-
tomed to associate force of Constitution with a fulgour and roundness
of external conformation. Children of a scrofulous Constitution
have the Cranium generally finely developed exhibiting some
of the distinguishing marks of genius and intelligence. They in
most instances exhibit ^{extending} precocity of intellect and
marked intelligence and in every respect a very interesting
development of the mental faculties. The sprightliness and viva-
city of imagination the quickness of apprehension the candour
and generosity met with in scrofulous patients render them
not unfrequently most interesting objects. Thon whatever cause
this may arise whether from some intimate connection between
the development of the brain and lymphatic tissue or from
some other cause inexplicable from our present knowledge it
to have escaped common observation and
so generally the case as not to have grown into a proverb that Chil-
dren exhibiting these brilliant lines of character are dis-
tined to a premature grave. Persons of this diathesis have
the Alae Nasi widely descended the upper lip turned up the
teeth unmarkedly white but soon decay the breath foetid the

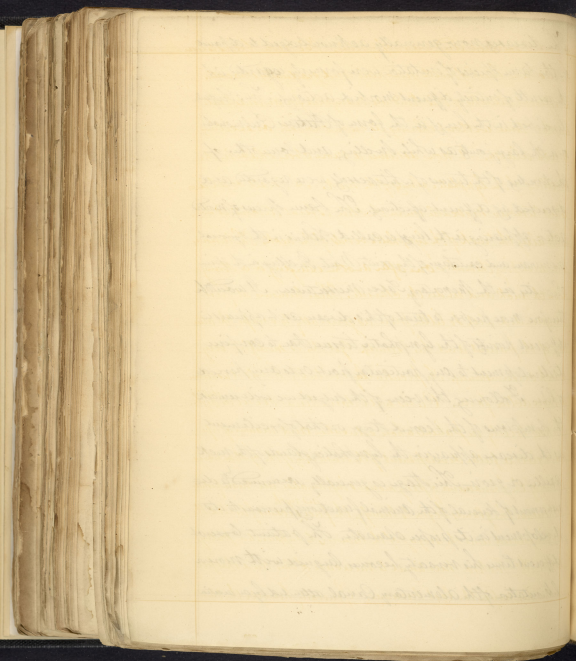


the abdomen prominent the flesh uncommonly soft and flabby and
include altogether exhibiting signs sufficiently distinctive of the humoral
habit. These symptoms characterize the stage of predisposition, &
should be regarded as indications of alarming import not to be lightly
by treated. It is in this stage that a cause of prostration may be estab-
lished capable in most cases of breaking up the chain of causation
and changing the constitution on which scrophula depends for its
action. But let this favorable season pass and habit may
and generally will so firmly establish the present order of things
as almost entirely to preclude this happy result.

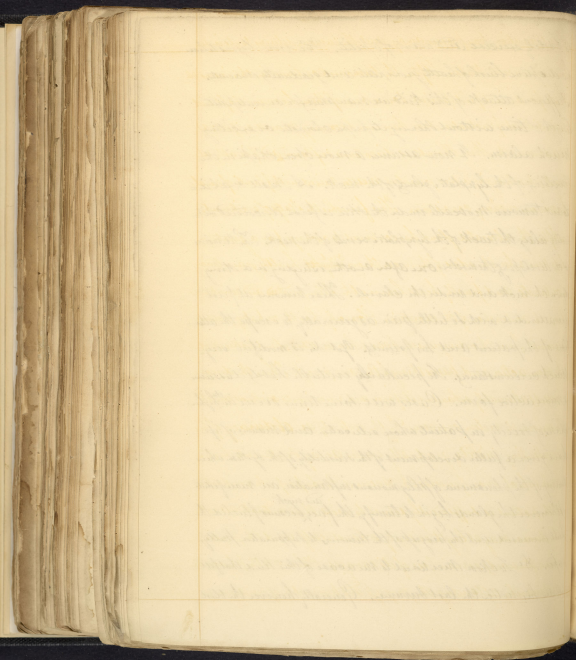
Scrophula is said to be a disease of childhood appearing
commonly between the age of five and twelve years. I think
this assertion ought to be taken with some limitation. The disease
appears to attack different parts according to the age at which
it is developed and receiving different names according to
its location has occasioned this error with regard to the time
of its appearance. When it is developed before the age of
puberty, the lymphatic glands of the neck axilla & groin
or Mesenteric become almost exclusively the point in which
the irritation is manifested. This is the form of the disease
here described under the title of Scrophula.



The diseases now generally acknowledged to depend
on the same species of irritation were formerly regarded as
the result of entirely different morbid actions. Thus Engorgement
developed in the lung is the form of *Aethisis Pulmonalis*,
or in the large joints as white swelling, and some other of
the diseases of the tissues of white vessels were regarded and
described as different affections. The same species of morbid
action appearing in the lung is called *Aethisis* in the synovial
membrane and cartilage of the joints White Swelling in the spine
Rickets in the Membranae Falcae Mesentericae. It would be
therefore more proper to treat of this disease as it appears in
different points of the lymphatic tissue than to confine
its development to any particular part or to any period
of life. Following this view of the subject we will unmask
the symptoms of the second stage or that of excitement
as the disease appears in the lymphatic glands of the neck
axilla or groin. This stage is generally accompanied by dis-
arrangement of several of the animal functions previous to its
development in its proper character. The patient loses at
different times his vivacity becomes languid with more or
less irritation of the elementary Canal attended by a certain

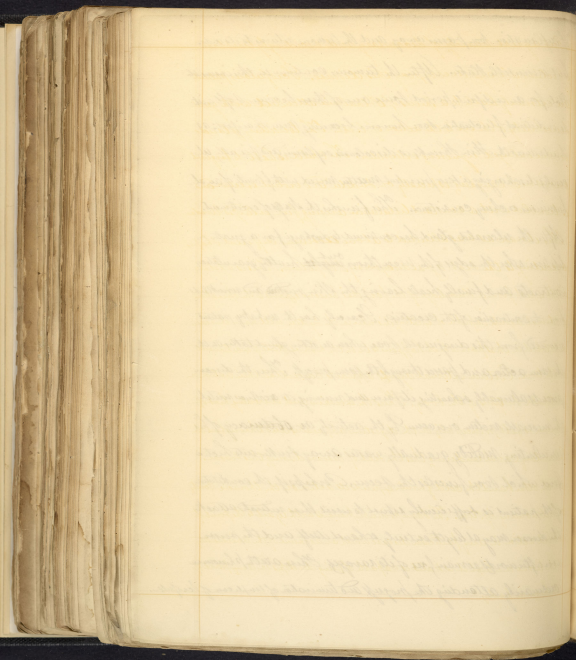


to bodily exercise and want of appetite. The man begins to lose his cheerful blush of health grows pale and gradually emaciated. Different attacks of this kind are manifested for an indefinite length of time without showing its proper character or exciting much alarm. It now assumes a more open shape in the swelling of the lymphatic glands of the neck. A small oval indolent tumour moveable under the skin is first discovered situated along the track of the lymphatic vessels of the neck. The tumours go on developing themselves one after another extending in a string down the neck and under the clavicle. These tumours at first are attended with so little pain as generally to escape the attention of the patient and his friends. Yet this is modified very much circumstances. In peculiarly irritable habits it assumes a more active form. Cases will sometimes occur in ^{the} higher classes of society in patients whose education and manner of life have given a fuller development of the sensibility of the system when many of the phenomena of phlogimous inflammation are manifested. Whenever the glands begin to tumify, the face ^{and neck} becomes flushed the heat increased and the progress of the tumours to suppuration fully rapid. Dr Jackson mentioned to me a case of this kind that fell under his notice the last summer. Generally however the blast



of inflammation soon passes away and the tumour returns to its insens-
ible insensible state. After the tumour continues in this insens-
ible state for an indefinite period some one of them becomes soft with
an indistinct fluctuation soon however becoming more manifest; as
it advances the skin thickens, is discoloured & inflamed, and finally ul-
cerates discharging a sero purulent matter mixed with flocculi of an al-
buminous or clay consistency. This finishes the stage of excitement.

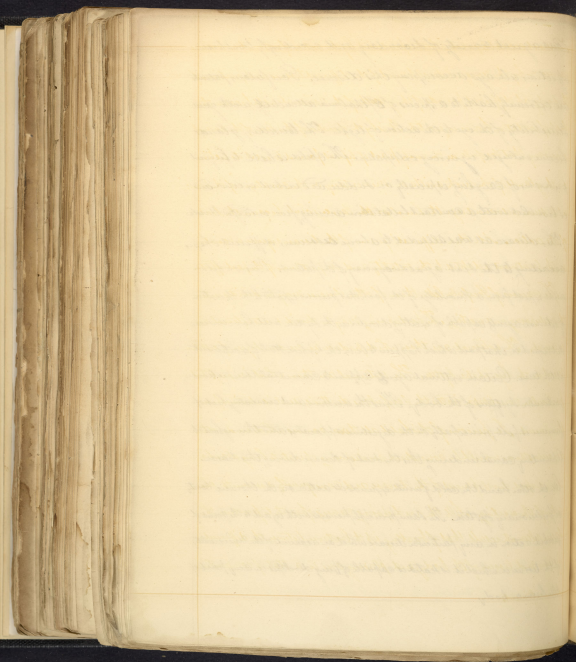
After the ulcerated gland has continued to discharge for a greater or
less time when the edges of the ulcer throw ^{out} ~~in~~ healthy granulations
contract and finally heal leaving the skin pitted and wrinkled
from the contraction of the cicatrix. Scarcely has the unhappy patient
recovered from this disgusting sores when another gland takes on the
same action and passes through the same progress. Thus the disease
proceeds continually exhausting its force and running its wretched march
the miserable victim overcome by the activity or obstinacy of his
unrelenting matter gradually wastes away sinks into hectic
fever which soon finishes the scene. Perhaps if the constitution
of the patient is sufficiently robust to resist these repeated attacks
the disease may at length entirely exhaust itself and the person
eventually remain free of its ravages. These are the phenomena
ordinarily attending the progress and termination of the disease of the glands.



But a great variety of secondary and exceedingly troublesome affection, always accompany this disease. Scrofulous patients are extremely liable to a species of Ophthalmia attended with great sensibility of the eye to the action of light. The tonsillary glands become enlarged requiring extirpation. The child is liable to frequent paroxysms of Coughing especially on Sudden and violent exertion and is troubled with a constant titillation arising from enlarged Mucosa.

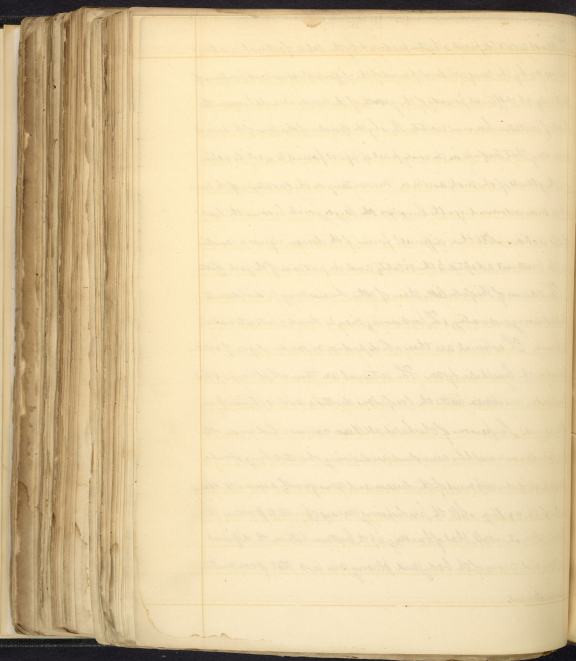
This disease as was alluded to above assumes different shapes according to the seat of the disease in the patient. This is what we might expect from a knowledge of the fact that persons exposed to the operation of external agents capable of exciting disorder in the system will have disease developed in that part which happens to be in the highest state of excitement at the time. Certain external agents appear to concentrate their action on particular systems of the body. Thus the excessive and enervating heat of summer is felt principally on the digestive apparatus and throughout the Alimentary Canal rendering this the seat of disease during this season.

On the other hand the cold of winter exerts its action on the Thoracic cavity or pulmonary system. The same principle prevails with regard to the point of morbid action in any particular disease which on account of the universality of the tissue in which it is seated is capable of being developed in any part of the human body.



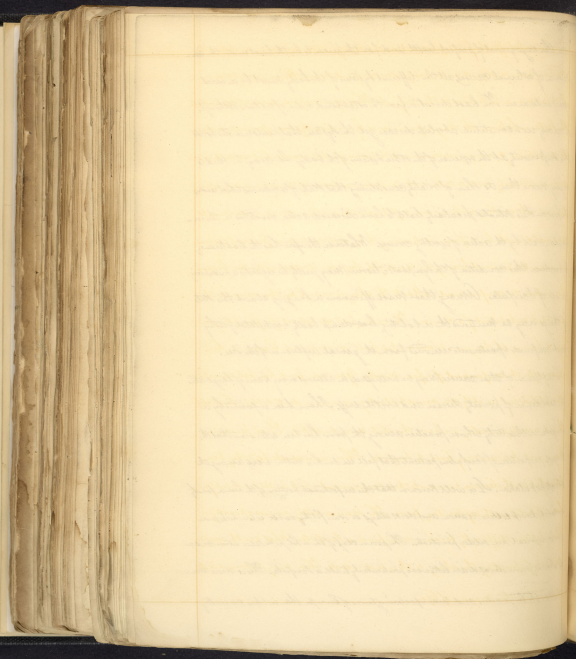
The most excitable point whether produced by the action of external or internal causes or by the unequal development of the different tissues and portions of the body at different periods of the growth of the animal will become the seat of scurfula however excited. It is by the operation of this law of the animal economy that scurfula in the early part of life is found to exert its action on the glands of the neck axilla or mesenteric, or the cartilages of the nose; at a more advanced age the lungs or the large joints become the seat of its action. All these different forms of the disease require a variation in the treatment adapted to the vitality and importance of the part affected.

The Causes of Scurfula like those of other diseases may be divided into the predisposing and exciting. The predisposing may be divided into external and internal. The external are those which produce an undue degree of excitement in the lymphatic system. The internal are those which impair that particular constitution called the scurfulous diathesis, and is derived from the parent. In persons of this kind all those causes which under other circumstances would be considered predisposing operate to bring about a more rapid development of the disease and consequently assume the character of the exciting. All the predisposing causes operate to produce the same ultimate result that of breaking up the barrier between the different systems and tissues of the body and placing one in a state of comparative insusceptibility.

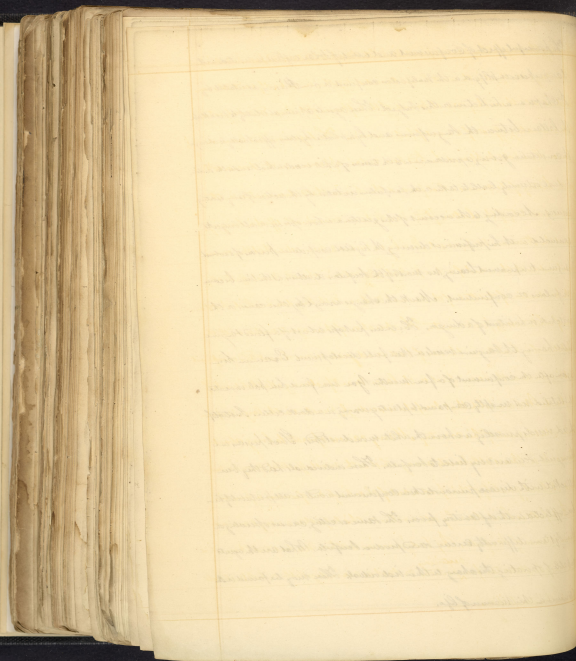


For the enjoyment of perfect health and for the person to be the least under the influence of external causes all the different systems of the body must be in exact equilibrium. The least deviation from the established order of action although it may not constitute absolute disease yet the system that predominates holds this superiority at the expense of the other systems of the body. It may be said to enjoy more than its share of vitality constituting that state of excitement which renders the person thus situated peculiarly liable to have diseased action developed in the particular part by the action of exciting causes. Whatever therefore has the habit tendency to produce this condition of the lymphatic tissue may justly be regarded a producing cause of scrophula. Among these most efficacious in bringing about this state of things may be mentioned the inhaling low damp badly ventilated filthy and confined apartments removed from the general influence of the air.

The influence of these causes may be witnessed in almost every lane of large cities the residence of poverty disease and wretchedness. I have been informed by a surgeon in this city whose practice among the poor has been extensive that the largest proportion of scrophulous patients that fell under his notice were among the black population. It is well known that this unfortunate portion of the human family inhabit damp cold narrow and dark alleys or some filthy cold cave which present a general unhealthy picture. The poor class of the white population when residing in more elevated are likewise particularly liable to scrophula. This is more manifest in the large cities and manufacturing towns of Europe than in this country.

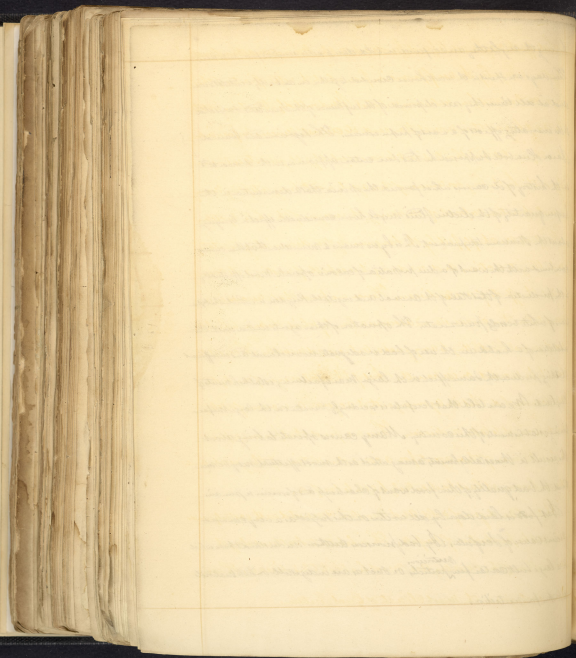


The powerful effect of Confinement and want of Solar influence in winter would
be a predisposing cause in the malpaction confined in our Prisons, as related by
Dr. Chapman in his lecture on this subject. These agents appear almost to break up
the balance between the sanguiferous and lymphatic systems effectually to change
the constitution giving a predominance to the tissue of white vessels which renders the indi-
vidual extremely liable to take on the scurfy skin irritation by the action of any exciting
causes. According to the account of this gentleman whose opinion is on all subjects
concluded with his preference is discerning the highest confidence persons of robust
Sanguine temperament bearing no marks of the scurfy skin & others at the time become
scurfous on confinement. Mark the changes wrought by these causes on the
witches inhabitant of a dungeon. He enters perhaps robust of a florid Sanguine
habit having the sanguine vessels in their full development. Examine him
again after the confinement of a few months. You now find him pale emaciated
debilitated not unlike confined to plants growing in a dark cellar. Instead of
the red vessels prevailing as before the white more developed. Such persons are
however just like are very liable to scurfy skin. These individuals had they been
attacked with disease previous to their confinement would in all probability have
been afflicted with inflammatory fever. The same exciting causes operating on
their system differently can now produce scurfy skin. What are the agents
capable of operating this change in these individuals? These may be found in the
difference in the manner of life.



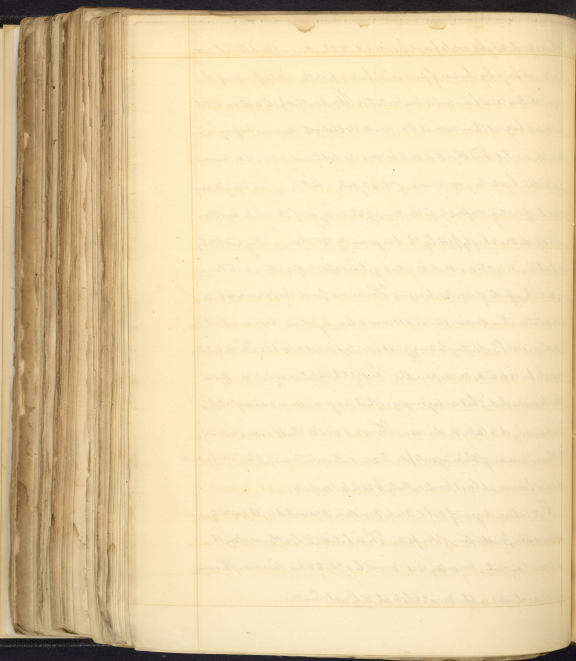
During the night they are confined in cold damp cells surrounded ~~from~~ pure air.
Their days are spent in a work house crowded together in an badly ventilated room
and at all times they are deprived of the influence of the pure air subjected
to the emanating effects of a vast of human excrements. The physician and learned
Baron Huenbold supposed he had seen certain appearances in the disease at
in the history of its causes which formed the opinion that a denudation in the
proper quantity of the electric fluid might have considerable effect in bringing
about the human temperament. It is by no means a new idea that the cause
combined with the want of a due proportion of caloric operate most effectively
to the production of that state of the animal and vegetable Kingdom in which the pre-
lence of white blood predominates. The operation of these agents united with the
inhalation of a heated air the use of bad and impure nourishment and insufficient
clothing produce the same effect in the large Manufacturing establishments of
England. We are told that Scrophula is exceedingly prevalent in the large Manu-
facturing establishments of this country. Many causes operate to bring about
this result in these establishments among which as the most effectual may be men-
tioned the bad quality of their food want of cleanliness and of exercise in pure air.

But food is laid down by all writers on this subject as a very ^{efficient} cause of Scrophula. By bad provisions Authors understand those which
is a large bulk of ^{nutritious} fat few portents or such as are indigestible or hot materials
the proper for ventilation.



What effect ought we to find produced on the Arterial and Venous
system at large by the use of provoking, from what the vital officines of this
organ could extract - nutritious fortifiers? No doubt but its action would
be rapid beyond their normal standard its delicate mucous surface imme-
diately excited and should it not become absolutely puffed up its extensive
appathia by the long continuance of these agents, would bring into play many
reserve operations, capable of impairing the energies of the whole system.
Its effects are chiefly felt by the sanguiferous system diminishing its vitality
or fulfilling its action, and rendering it incapable of resisting its common
extent the effects of acute disease. Hence we find that disease is a
condition thus circumstances assumes a low typhoid shape in which the
use of general bloodletting to any great extent is inadmissible. The constitution
hard to be irritated or impeded. But if the vital energies of one system
are diminished that antagonizing with it acquires an incomparability
predisposing it to take on disease. Thus we find that persons exposed
to the influence of these agents for a considerable time if they escape acute
disease become at last particularly liable to scurvy.

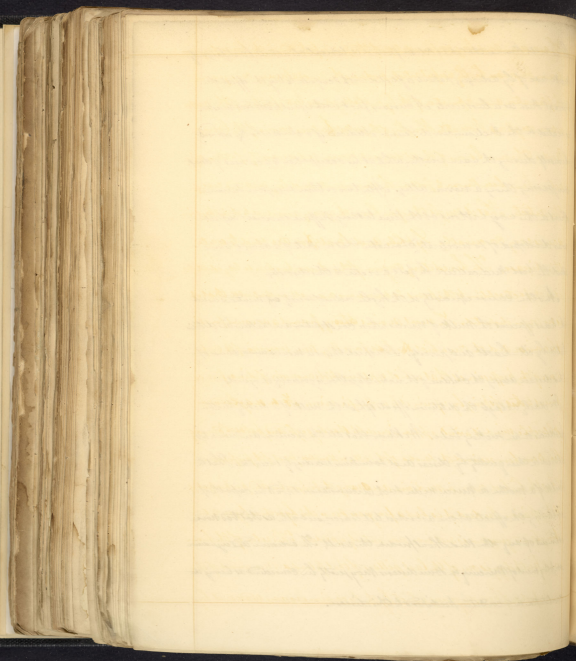
A certain degree of cold and moisture connected with easting winds
appears to be productive of scurvy. The inhabitants scattered along the
eastern shore of this country are most liable to this disease. The same
effect is witnessed in the moist climate of Great Britain.



It is well known that it is seldom found in tropical climates a good remedy
make use of by advising patient affected with scurvy to try the effect of a
tropical sun as a last resource. A curious fact with regard to this disease
is related in the *Archivum de Science Medicales* of a clerk who by exposing
himself during the warm weather, while at his occupation to a current of damp
air passing through a narrow alley. After two or three successive summers
spent in this way without at the time taking sufficient exercise scurvy
was developed of so accelerated character that in spite of a change of living
and the best Medical Aid he fell a victim to this disorder.

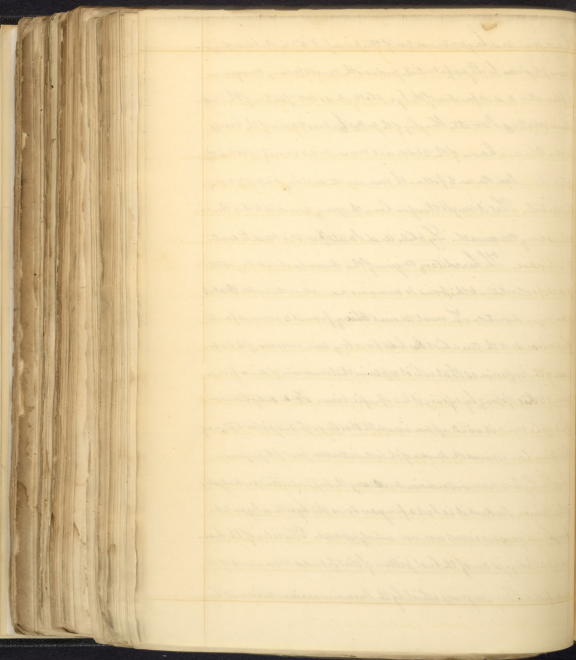
Another cause especially in the higher order of society is mentioned as
the least efficient the Milk of Nurses when Constitution are weakened and debi-
lited by ill health and poverty. I suspect this is a more common cause of
this disease among the children of the rich than is generally imagined.

We daily witness the deleterious effects of bad the Milk of a sickly Mother
produces on her sucking babe. We know that all the secretions are more or less
altered in this quality by disease and sometimes exceedingly vitiated. That the
Milk of a Mother or Nurse under such circumstances should be capable of
entailing the effects above ascribed to it is as conceivable as that bad home-
ishment of any other kind should produce this result. The extensive and injurious
employment of Mercury in many diseases may justly be considered as being a
contribution in a considerable measure to this disease.



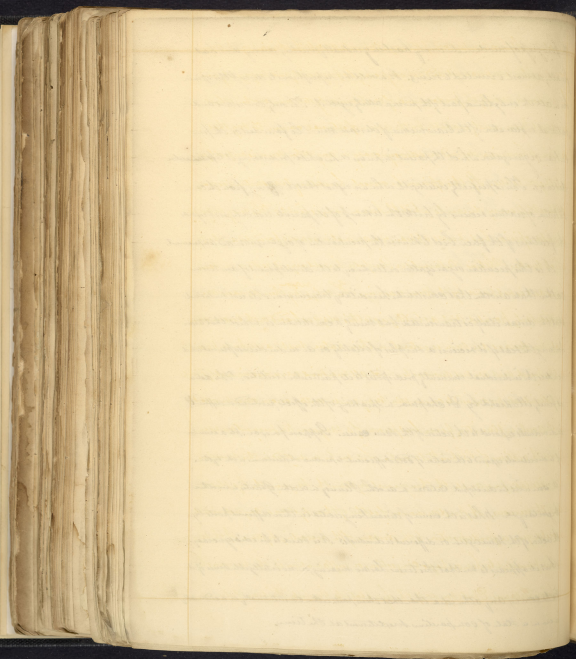
The excessive and long continued use of this powerful and in the hands of a judicious physician highly useful article produces the most alarming consequences. A flammation and separation of the large plates, glands, laceration of the mesenteric ganglia, Stomatitis, Hoarseness of the guttae Serena, Caries of the bones, Nodes Chronic Ulcers of the abdominal viscera and a variety of other affections have been known to follow the immediate and long continued use of this article. That it might therefore have the agency, ascribed to it in this disease is very conceivable. Syphilis, and Syphilis are said to create this disease. The hereditary origin of this disease has been long established and the facts relative to this point so numerous and well authenticated that it is no longer disputed. The most ancient theory framed to account for this phenomenon and the one which has held for a long time possession of the confidence of the profession is that which explains the transmission of this affec-
tion to the offspring by referring it to a specific virus. To a enlightened philosophic mind it would appear incredible that by gross and palpable errors should ever have received the sanction of the better instructed part of the profession.

But the highest names in medicine are among the supporters and protectors of this opinion. The deed it is but a few years since this hypothesis began to be brought into question is not even now entirely exploded. This relic of the humoral pathology is one of the last pillars of that exploded Monument of the imperfection of human genius which by the successive errorous misconceptions by



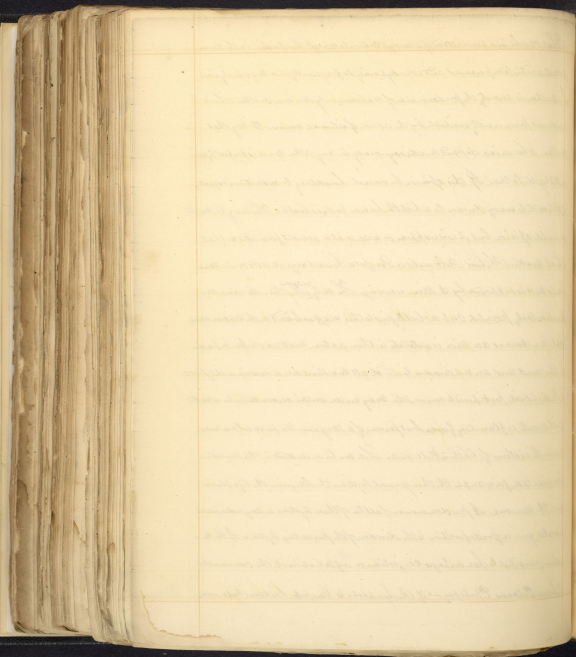
the progress of modern discovery has been gradually wasting away and has finally almost crumbled to ruins. It would be superfluous to discuss this opinion here all the enlightened part of the person actually reject it. The only consistent and rational explanation of the transmission of disease must be founded on the peculiar organization which the parent in person or his child predestining it to particular disease. This is perfectly intelligible when we reflect that the offspring from the constitution of nature receives by birth the likeness of its parents not only as to organs the features of the face but likewise the peculiarities of organization and temperament.

It is this peculiar organization or tendency to the development of one tumor rather than another that constitutes hereditary transmission. I do not understand that the disease itself is transmitted but merely a constitution in which that tumor forming the seat of it receives a surplus of vitality or an undue development and renders the individual immensely predisposed to its particular irritation. This idea is firmly illustrated by Dr Chapman in speaking of the effects produced on different individuals exposed to the action of the same cause. Suppose for example a number of individuals exposed to the action of cold sufficient to produce distemper with typhus. In some will be developed Catarrh in another Pleurisy in another Gastritis in another Dysentery &c. What is the cause of disease being excited in these different parts by the action of the same agent or different individuals? It is said to be idiopathic. But it appears to me that this term has no meaning, or an intelligible sense if it be to convey any other idea than that these parts either constitutionally or accidentally were in a state of comparative excitement at the time.



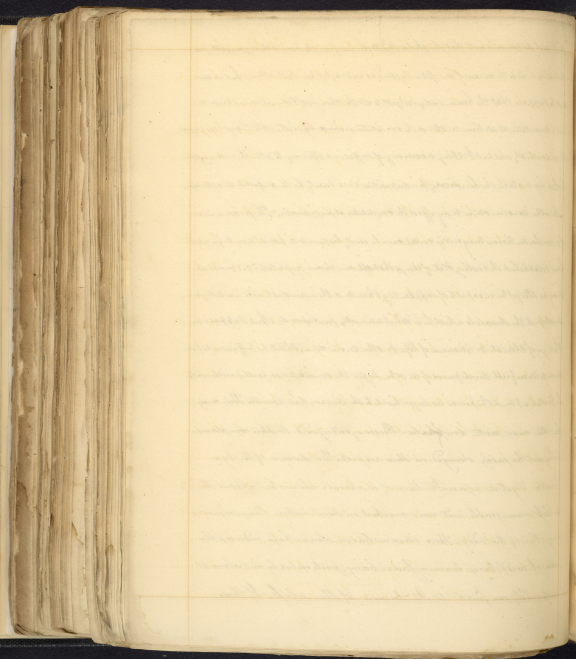
What ought to be understood if I may venture to express the opinion. By the term
peculiarities, temperament and idiosyncrasy so frequently and so vaguely used
by authors, is merely the predominance of one tissue or system over another which
occurs in some mostly regulated by the action of external causes. It may be that
certain phenomena depend on idiosyncrasy in any other sense is perfectly un-
intelligible to me. If this opinion be correct, hereditary transmission is equally
applicable to every disease to which the human body is liable. This may be thought
a wild opinion, but it will appear on examination as well founded as that
which makes Phthisis Pulmonalis or Gonorrhea hereditary; it rests on the same
basis and is supported by the same reasoning. The only ^{major} why these diseases are
particularly pointed out as belonging to this class is based on the circumstance
that these diseases are more insistent in their nature, make a deeper impression
on the mind and are not diseases to which all mankind are indiscriminately liable.

Individuals predisposed to consumption may under certain circumstances be attacked
with a cutaneous inflammatory fever but persons of a sanguine temperament are seldom
if ever the victims of Phthisis Pulmonalis. Let me be understood in this direction.
We will take for example the three great systems the Sanguine the Lymphatic
and the Nervous. A predominance of either of these systems in any individual
would give a predisposition to the diseases of the prevailing system. If the sa-
guine prevailed to her or larger congestions or inflammations of the mucous to
Chorea, Tetanus, Epilepsy or if the lymphatic to Gonorrhea, Phthisis Pulmonalis,

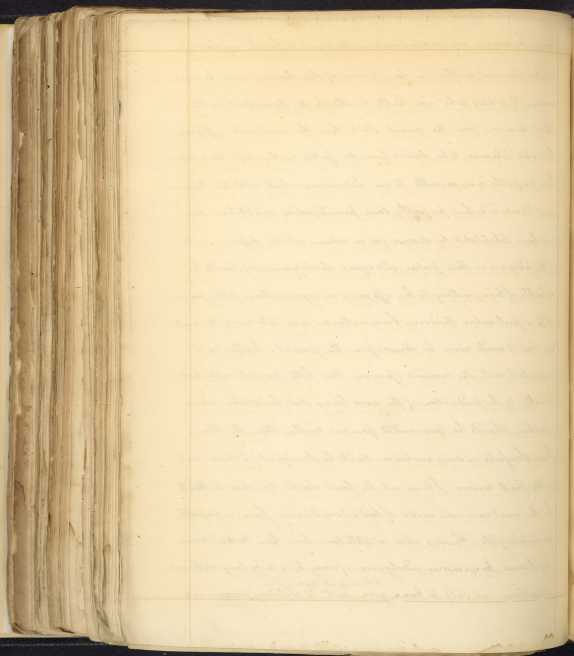


It is not as convenient that the child should derive from the parent the organization pre-
disposing him to the disease of one of them by him, as well as to those of the other. But we can
not be happy that the human body, subject to all the changes of time, place, and circumstance
will maintain at all times in the state of the constitution received by birth. All things being equal
it undoubtedly will, at times occurring of sufficient frequency to alter the order estab-
lished by nature the hereditary predisposition will surely be superseded in after life.

Another cause may modify the constitutional predisposition. The predominance
of a particular tissue may not in certain cases be easily broken up or hot it may be firmly
has established the existing state of things that all our means prophylactic and medical
may be altogether incapable of supplanting them and the individual will inevitably have
developed the disease to which he is constitutionally predisposed. But suppose a
change of climate or manner of life or other circumstances should be sufficient to pro-
duce a more full development of the other system the constitutional predisposition would
be broken up and the person no longer liable to the disease of his parents. This may
be the case with scrophulous. Persons predisposed to this complaint
may not be easily changed in this respect. The disease of the lym-
phatic system especially when of a chronic character appears to
be less manageable and more marked in their nature than almost
any other of the body. These circumstances alone have induced the
idea of hereditary transmission being particularly and almost
exclusively confined to the diseases of this class. If these



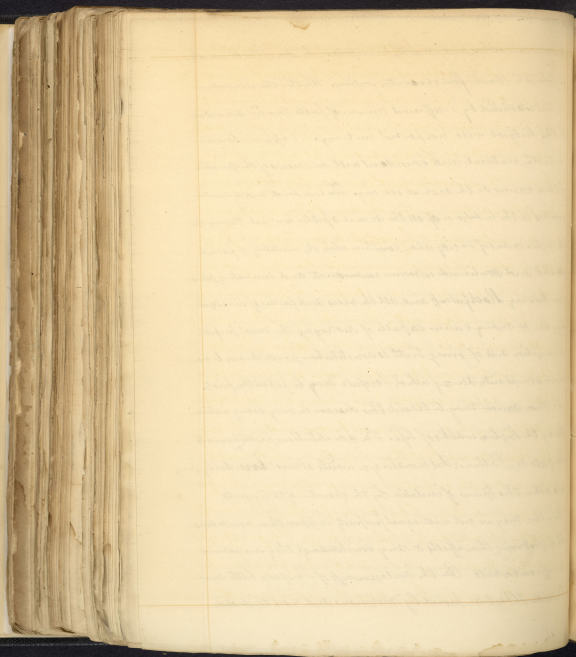
views be correct, one circumstance with regard to hereditary diseases, related by most authors in their history of this disease, must be erroneous. It is said to be more liable to attack the descendants in the third remove from the parent stock than the immediate offspring. It is said likewise to be derived from the father rather than the mother. It is perfectly inconceivable to me and inconsistent with the doctrine just advanced, that perfectly sane parents, whose constitution has not been debilitated by disease, or in whom all the different systems of the body are in their proper and equal development; should be capable of transmitting to his offspring an organisation predisposing it to a particular disorder. Circumstances may determine the mode, but it could never be derived from the parent. Neither is it consistent with the received opinions that both parents contribute equally to the production of the new being that hereditary predisposition should be transmitted from one rather than the other. That Scrophula in some instances should be developed in descendants of the third remove I have not the least doubt; but that it should be the most common mode of hereditary transmission is perfectly unintelligible. Persons whose constitution have been broken down by disease, by excessive indulgence of every kind or by long continued privation are said to ^{impaired organisation} give birth to children predisposed



to various diseases and especially to Scrophula. An idea of this kind will
be found in Horace *facile crescentur foribus*. Whether this conception
has been established by a sufficient number of facts may be still resting
on this subject will not permit me to say. It appears however
perfectly natural and consistent with our views of the operation
of these causes on the animal economy. The moderate and destructive
excesses in the indulgence of all the animal appetites to which many of
the higher orders of society are sometimes add the voracity of passion
Gambles and Court and exposure to immoderate and overvaluing pleasures
luxury Slothfulness and all the vices and follies of civilized
life are so many causes capable of destroying the most perfect
organization and of giving birth to constitutions predisposed to various
complaints, among which Scrophula may be placed the first.

If these causes may be traced this disease in very many instances
among the higher walks of life. In constitutions predisposed to
Scrophula or Phtisis Pulmonalis you would almost inevitably bring
into action this species of irritation by the operation of these agents.

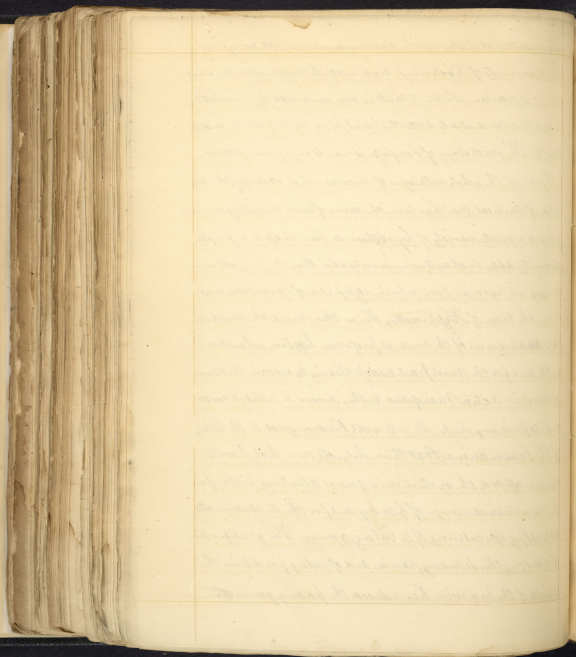
Why then may we not with equal propriety suppose them agents capable
of producing these effects on any constitution if they are carried
to sufficient extent? On the contagiousness of Scrophula little need
be said. It has been proved by numerous and well conducted



experiments that it can not be communicated in this way.

The experiments of Richerand made with the matter of suppurating glands to ascertain whether it could be communicated by inoculation and others conducted to settle this point place the subject beyond a doubt. The pathology of Erysipela is now to engage our attention.

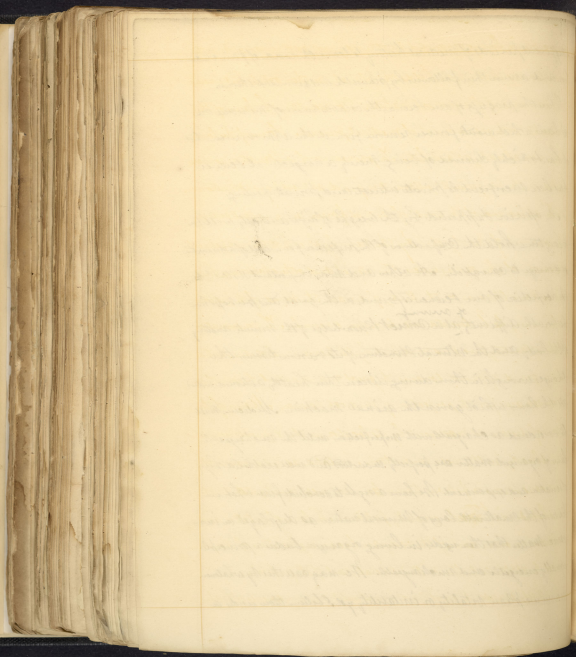
No one of the whole catalogue of diseases which occupy the attention of Medical Men has been the cause of more dispute given origin to a greater variety of hypotheses or been wrapped in greater obscurity, after such extensive investigation than the subject under review. It has ever been a boundless field of speculation ever since the time of Hippocrates. Even this period the most consummate genius of the medical profession has been exhausted in wild and for the most part useless theories to explain the kind of Morbid Action manifested in this disease, & what it consists and its primary seat. It is a well known fact in the history of the human mind that those subjects on which least is known afford the richest and most alluring field for the unrestrained range of fancy and for the seducing and fascinating speculations of a ruling genius. The gratification of indulging this seducing passion and of ruling for a time the mind of the profession has induced the leading geniuses of the



different periods of medical history to leave the road of fair induc-
tion and amuse their followers by plausible but groundless theories.

Thus the progress of our Science, the establishment of Medicine on
a basis which would forever remove from it the approbrium which
it has so richly deserved of being merely a conjectural Science
has been sacrificed to private interest and private feeling.

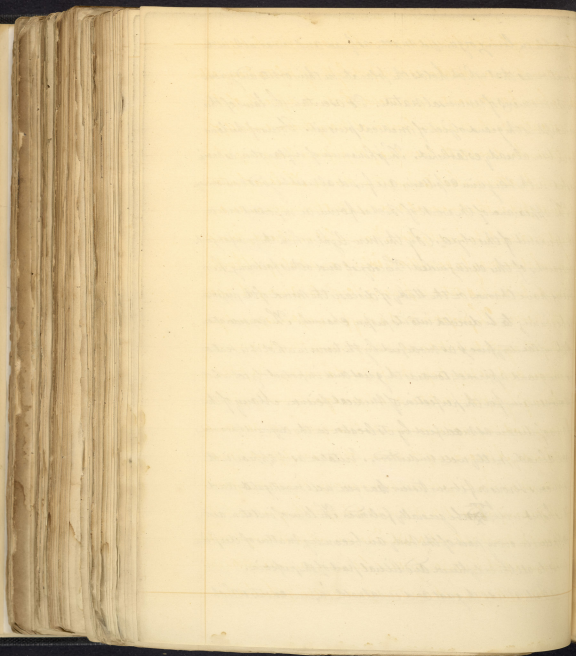
An opinion supported by the weight of high authority will for
a long time hold the Confidence of the profession for want of a disposition
or courage to contradict. An other and more important obstacle to
the perfection of our Science is found in the great and perhaps insur-
mountable difficulty ^{of arriving} at a correct knowledge of the minute anatomy
of the body and the ultimate functions of its various tissues, the
changes wrought in them during disease their healthy actions and
all the laws which govern the animal machine. Medicine must
be considered as charged with imperfection until the unchangeable
laws of organized matter are perfectly understood and well established by
observation and experiment. We have a right to conclude from what we
know of the unalterable laws of Mineral nature as displayed in inor-
ganic matter that their rigidity in living organized bodies is a principle
equally energetic and unchangeable. We may call this by whatever
name we please fatality or inevitability, yet I believe there exists a



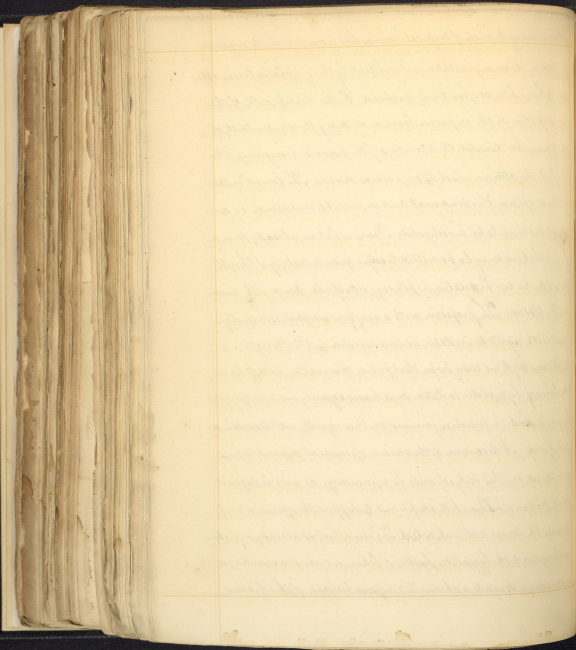
principle in living organized matter as fixed and invariable in the operation as that which holds the planets in their orbits and governs the movements of universal nature. To ascertain the laws of this principle is the grand object of medical pursuit. Four of these laws have been already established. The phenomena of inflammation as manifested in the sanguine capillaries are fixed almost beyond controversy.

The appearance of the work of Bechdel forms an important era in the pursuit of this object. By the new light which the indefatigable research of this distinguished Physiologist and others following his views have thrown on the study of disease the mind of the profession is beginning to be directed into its proper channel. The consideration of the inflammatory process as modified by the tissue in which it is seated is our grand approach towards the great and important object which now remains for the perfection of Medical Science. Many of the laws of disease as modified by its location in the different humours are already pretty well understood. Irritation as it appears in the Mucous Serous or fibrous tissue has been well investigated and it is hoped will ^{soon} be generally followed. The laws of irritation as it appears in every part of the body are becoming matters of deep interest to all the enlightened and liberal part of the profession.

But amidst the great and invaluable improvements which

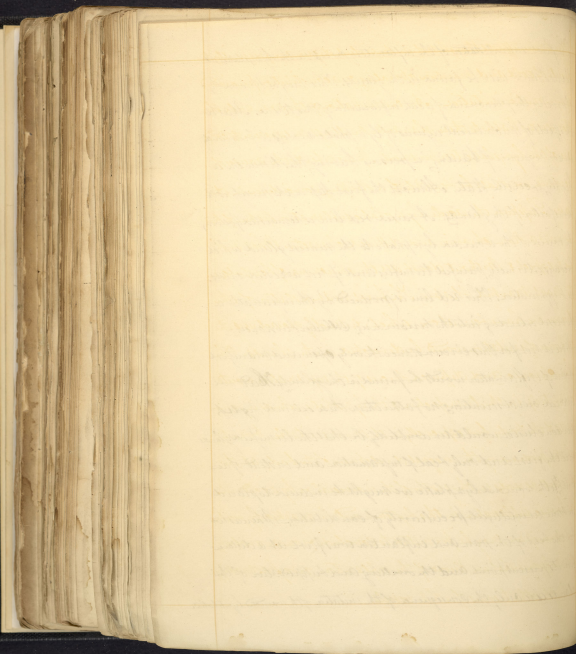


almost every branch of medical science has received from the suggestions of modern discovery initiation as modified by the lymphatic tissue appears to have been comparatively neglected. Either the difficulty of the investigation or the improper location of many diseases evidently of this tissue has diverted the members of the profession from giving this subject the attention which its importance demands. The laws of initiation as developed in this universal and important tissue remain in a great measure to be investigated. From what we already know from what we may be permitted to infer from analogy I think there can be no hesitation in placing Scrofula among the diseases of this tissue. The profession with a very few exceptions is perfectly agreed with regard to initiation as manifested in the sanguine capillaries and we may hope that future observations will place the laws of lymphatic initiation on a basis equally well supported by facts and the practice founded on this equally well ascertained and fixed. A discussion of the various opinions at different times entertained on this subject will be unnecessary. It will be sufficient for the purpose of a Thesis like the present to support the opinion which appears the most rational & right. From what is already ascertained with regard to the lymphatic system I believe we are warranted in considering Scrofula a chronic and diffused irritation of this tissue.

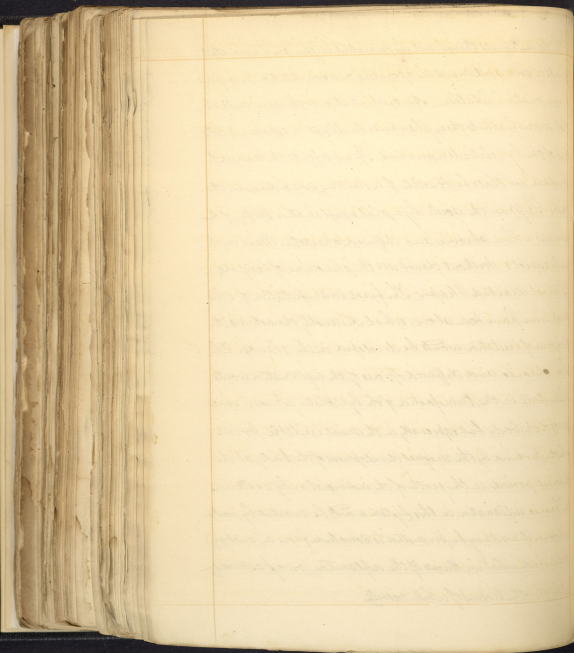


The first manifestation of the inflammatory process in the lymphatic system as I know will be found in the glands. This may be known by observing the phenomena of acute inflammation of this tissue. Moreover the effects of mechanical injuries of lymphatic vessels so frequently the consequence of banding in persons having this disease in a highly excitable state. Almost the first step in the process is the tumefaction of the glands. A raised red line is remarked following the course of the wounded lymphatic to the nearest gland which becomes extremely painful tumefies and if not arrested ends in suppuration. This red line is produced by the inflammation in the vessel extending into the surrounding cellular tissue.

Now is not for this circumstance the only open and manifest point of inflammation would be found in the glands. That we carried our observations no farther than these external signs, our conclusion would be undoubtedly be that the tumefied glands were the first and only seat of inflammation and instead of referring to the wounded lymphatic we might be induced to place it in some intelligible peculiarity of constitution. Whereas we see the seat of the pain and inflammation was first at a distance from its present point and the swelling and suppuration of the glands are only the consequence of the irritation of the wounded lymphatic.

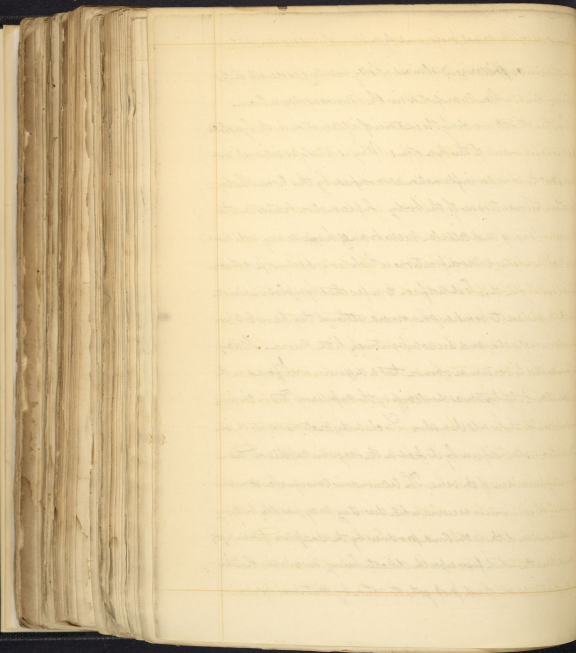


The same effects though not in so violent degree are frequently the result of cold and moisture operating on a constitution predisposed to lymphatic irritation. An examination of the case will show that reasons liable to these glandular swellings are ascribable to the lymphatic temperament. If we refer to the causes of scrophula we shall be sensible of a striking coincidence in the cases. Suppose the acute lymphatic inflammation spoken of has assumed a slow chronic and diffused character. What ought we to expect? Without doubt all the phenomena of scrophula in its most marked shape. The first manifestation of the disease we have seen above, which distinctly characterizes the form of irritation would be developed in the glands. The slow chronic and diffused species of the inflammation would then itself in the tumefaction of the lymphatic glands in various parts of the body but especially in the most irritable points whether produced by the unequal development of the body, at two different periods in the growth of the individual or by accident. Chronic inflammation in this system would be marked by peculiar indolence if we may be permitted to conclude from an analogy drawn from what we know of the inflammatory process modified by the other tissues of white vessels.



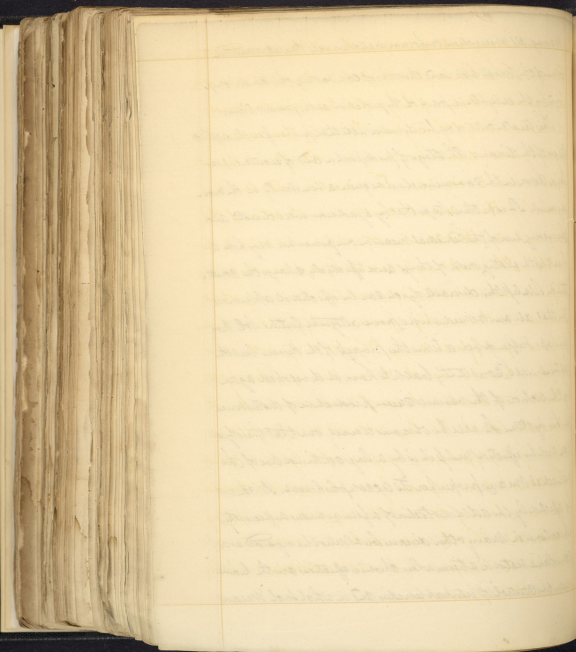
Then one of the most prominent symptoms of inflammation is in the sanguine capillaries is almost wholly wanting especially if of a chronic kind when manifested in the Mucous Membrane.

Why then should we deny the existence of inflammation in the lymphatic Capillaries for want of this symptom? Why is it not so rational and consistent to consider inflammation as modified by this tissue as by the other known tissues of the body. Inflammation treated in the Mucous Serous and cellular membranes has many well marked and acknowledged modifications which no enlightened practitioner will lose sight of. It is not fair to infer that lymphatic inflammation should manifest its peculiar phenomena although they have not been so well investigated and are comparatively little known. I may be permitted to venture an opinion that a difference will be found in the inflammation of this system as developed in the capillaries and in the living membrane of the vessels themselves. Such a distinction exists in inflammation as modified by its seat in the sanguine capillaries and in the living membrane of the veins. The tremendous consequences sometimes following slight wounds received while dissecting may possibly be owing to inflammation of the latter kind produced by the absorption of some highly acrid matter which fixes upon the delicate living membrane of the lymphatic vessel and propagates its action by continuous sympathy.

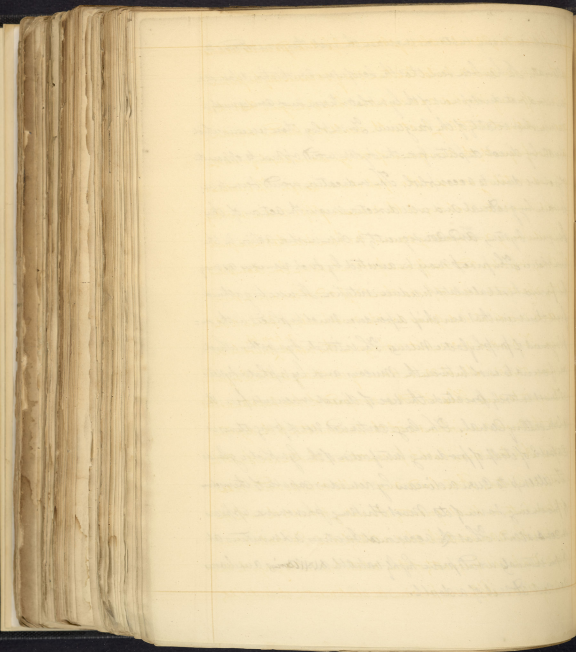


Making all observations on former practice we will merely mention some of the most approved means of combatting this disease employed by the enlightened part of the profession at the present time.

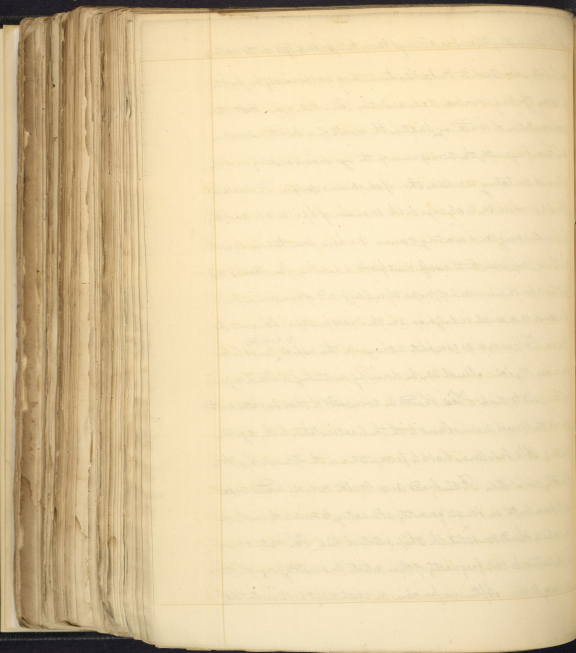
This treatment may be divided into three proper for the different stages of the disease. The stage of predisposition and of incitement as laid down in the course would require a similarity in the management. It is in these stages that by a judicious well directed and persevering use of the remedial means in our power we may hope to break up the existing order of things and effectually change the constitution. Unless this desirable object can be effected it approaches me that all our remedies will prove altogether fruitless. We may perhaps suspend for a time the progress of the disease but the patient will constantly be able to have it developed again by the action of the various causes productive of disturbance in his system. It will be obvious to every one that this object can not be effected unless it is by a long continued use of the remedial means proper for its accomplishment. It can not be effected by the administration of a few remedies sufficiently efficacious in many other diseases but must be regarded as a complaint seated in a tissue where chronic affections are the least under the control of internal remedies and in which such means



Must in many instances more than the evil they were intended to
alleviate. It has been seen that the Serpentine Constitution depends on
an inordinate development of the lymphatic tissue and consequently a
diminished vitality of the Lymphatics. To employ those remedial
agents by direct depletion from this system would appear to oppose
what we desire to accomplish. The indication would seem to be
to raise by gradual and well directed means the action of the
Lymphatic system, and consequently a diminished action in the
lymphatics. This point may be assisted by such remedies as may
be found best calculated to induce irritation. It will be gathered
from these views that our chief dependence must be placed in the em-
ployment of prophylactic means. The intimate sympathies which
are found to exist between the Mucous and Lymphatic systems
almost entirely preclude the use of direct evacuates for the
elementary Canal. The long continued use of purgatives is
capable of itself of producing hypertrophy of the Lymphatic glands.
To attempt to cure a disease by remedies capable of themselves
of producing some of its most striking phenomena appears
inconsistent. That the occasional laxative administrations at
proper intervals would prove highly valuable auxiliaries
can not admit of a doubt.

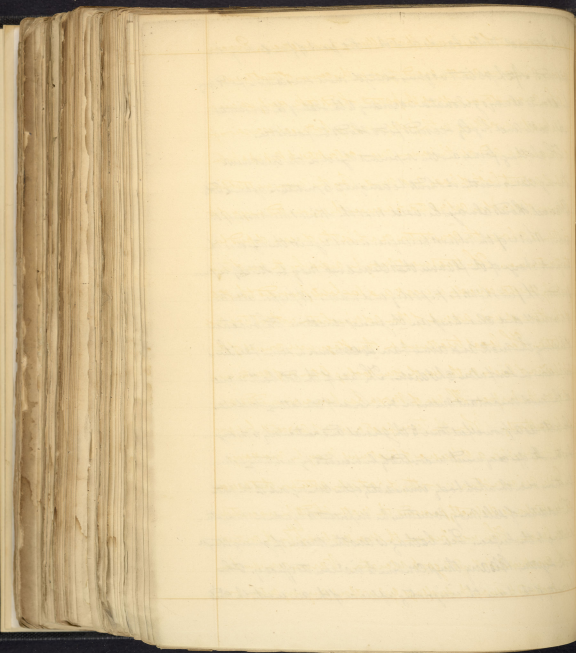


The Alimentary Canal is always more or less changed in its action
in this disease and a mild laxative may occasionally be proper
to carry off any morbid accumulation. But I imagine that these
accumulations of irritating matter the result of a morbid secretion
are more frequently the consequence of the injudicious employment of
in lineal irritating remedies than of the disease itself. The treatment
should consist in a change in the manner of life and in avoiding
the predisposing and exciting causes. We have seen that indignant
clothing improper and insufficient food a habiting low damp and
fetty apartments want of proper shelter and of exercise in pure
air and inordinat indulgence are the most fruitful sources of the
disease. To produce as complete a change in this respect ^{as possible} must be a
primary object. Much can be done by instituting a strict regimen,
with regard to diet. This should be composed of those substances that
afford the most nourishment with the least irritation to the digestive
organs. All substances liable to fermentation in the stomach should be
strictly prohibited. Flat bread and Milk or well boiled rice
with pure butter in small quantity alternating to suit the wishes of
the patient should constitute the chief articles of diet. The patient may
be permitted to eat frequently of these articles but not to gorge the stomach
at any time. After we perceive an abatement in the irritability



of the stomach mild soups and the white part of fowls may be
allowed. As the patient acquires strength more substantial food may
be allowed always graduated according to the state of the constitution.
All cakes and highly seasoned food should be forbidden.

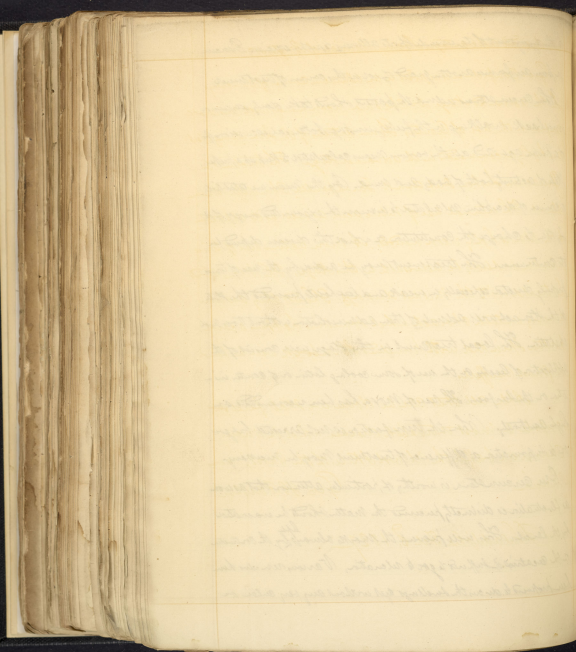
The clothing forms another important object in the treatment.
During damp weather it should be adequate to protect against cold.
Flannel should always be used next the skin all seasons of the
year. What is of the utmost consequence and regards this is a
frequent change of the flannel that dampness may be itself be pre-
vented. The feet should be kept dry and warm. A proper attention
to warmth and cleanliness in the general directions. The practice
of having the neck and arms bare ~~is common~~ is some families
pernicious in scurfy children. The use of the cold bath is one
of the most important means in our hands of combating scurfiness.
It acts as a powerful tonic to the general and particularly to the syphilis
system. Its efficacy would undoubtedly be increased by instituting active
frictions over the whole body immediately after coming out of the bath.
The addition of salt may sometimes be important to render it more
relating to the surface. Sea bathing is another means of giving strength
to the system. Many things combine to increase its efficacy. The
novelty of the scene the invigorating influence of the air in winter the cold



to the enjoyment of its juvenile sports allowing a proper exercise. Exercise
in pure air forms another grand agent in this course of treatment.

When circumstances admit the patient should take daily exercise on
horseback walking in the fields jumping botanical excursions of
a proper age and all the various means calculated to keep up a proper
state of activity both of body and mind. By this means we establish
a course of discipline calculated to increase the vigour and energy of the
system to change the constitution or at least this disease depend
its continuance. The treatment may be aided by the use of tonics
properly directed especially in weak and lax habits provided the state
of the stomach will admit of their administration without too great
irritation. The local treatment in this stage will consist of the
application of leeches or the use of some cooling lotion or of counter irri-
tation on the surface. The use of Moxa has been recommended on
high authority. When the suppuration is not arrested but goes
on to suppuration a difference of treatment may be necessary.

One circumstance is worthy of particular attention that as soon
as fluctuation is distinctly perceived the matter should be evacuated
by the lancet. This will prevent the marks always ^{left} by the contraction
of the cicatrix of suppuration to go to ulceration. Various remedies have
been proposed to draw out the swellings but without any very certain or



or direct advantage. See *Musculi of Bony*, &c.

Great Confidence is reposed in an alkaline course of Sweeney.
In the advanced stage Dr. Chapman recommends with considerable
confidence the use of Bicarbon. Some articles of the stimulating class
are highly recommended in the advanced stage. The tincture of
Guaiacum Lisbon Oil &c. &c. &c. Sassafras Theriacal Minder
etc. &c. The internal use of Nitric acid as well as its application
to the skin is highly recommended. A more active use of tonics
will undoubtedly be admissible in this stage. The Men should
be treated with the mildest druggs. Should they assume
a very irritable character which sometimes happens a cool
poultice sprinkled with powder of Cambric will be found
the most useful.

After all that can be done we shall find
Scrophula a most obstinate disease which in many
cases will baffle the utmost Skill of the most judicious
Physician

Geo. H. Parker

Philadelphia Feb 8, 1827—

The first of these is the
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on

Scrophula

Submitted to the examination of

Trustees Medical College

of the

University of Pennsylvania

For

The Degree

of

Doctor of Medicine

By Stephen L. ...

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

